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Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Sanitary Inspector.

For the Year 1942.

NEWPORT, MON.
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1943.

MAGOR & ST. MELLONS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ending 31st December, 1942

To the Chairman and Members of the Magor and St. Mellons Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report upon the general conditions of Public Health for the year for the Rural District of Magor and St. Mellons.

The Report is drawn up on the lines laid down in the Ministry of Health Wales) Circular, and is in the nature of an Interim Report only—in accordance with the Ministry's recommendation.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (consisting of twenty-six parishes) ...	44,074 acres
Number of inhabited houses	3,343
Rateable value	£79,912
Sum represented by penny rate	*£324

(*As ascertained in the prescribed manner under R. & V. Act, 1925)

VITAL STATISTICS
BIRTH RATE

The number of Births registered was :—

	M.	F.	Total
Total Births	97	95	192
Legitimate	94	94	188
Illegitimate	3	1	4
Still Births	4	3	7

The Birth Rate per 1,000 of population for 1942 was	15.5
The Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1942 was	15.8
The Birth Rate for Monmouthshire was	18.4

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:

Number of Deaths 8 (5 boys and 3 girls), giving a Rate per 1,000 live births of	41.6
The Rate for the whole of England & Wales was	49.0
The Rate for Monmouthshire was	53.6
Deaths form Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	Nil

Ages of Children at Death under 1 year:

Under 1 week	4
1—2 weeks	Nil
2—3 weeks	2
3—4 weeks	Nil
Total under 1 month ...	6
1—3 months	1
3—6 months	Nil
6—9 months	1
9—12 months	Nil
Total under 1 year ...	8

DEATH RATE.

The number of Deaths registered during the year was 124 (M. 67, F. 57), giving Death Rate of 10 per 1,000.

The Death Rate for England and Wales was	11.6
The Death Rate for Monmouthshire was	11.8
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
Deaths from other Puerperal causes	Nil
Giving a Rate per 1,000 births of	Nil

Causes Of Death.	M.	F.
Typhoid Fever, etc.	Nil.	Nii.
Measles	Nil.	Nil.
Scarlet Fever	Nil.	Nil.
Whooping ough	Nil.	Nil.
Diphtheria	Nil	Nil.
Influenza	Nil.	Nil.
Encephalitis Lethargica	Nil.	Nil.
Cerebro-spinal Fever	Nil.	Nil.
Respiratory Tuberculosis	2	3
Other Tuberulosis	Nil,	1
Cancer	8	7
Cerebral hæmorrhage	5	8
Heart Disease	17	21
Other circulatory	2	1
Bronchitis	3	4
Pneumonia	3	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1
Peptic Ulcer	2	Nil.
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	Nil.	Nil.
Appendicitis	2	Nil.
Other Digestive Diseases	1	1
Nephritis	3	3
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil.	Nil.
Other Puerperal	Nil.	Nil.
Premature Birth	4	2
Congenital causes, etc.	Nil.	1
Suicide	2	Nil.
Road Traffic Accidents	1	Nil.
Other violent causes	4	Nil.
All Other causes	7	2

HOSPITAL SERVICES, etc.

There were no changes in the Services during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Medical Officer of Health (part time).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (part time).

Sanitary Inspector (whole time officer).

A contribution of one-half the salaries is paid by the Ministry of Health.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) **General.**—No provision is made by the Council for general nursing. This work is carried on by private enterprise and District Nursing Associations, supported by voluntary contributions.

There is no change fro mprevious years.

(b) **For Infectious Diseases.**—Nil.

Midwives.—The number of midwives practising in the area is 6 :—

Bassaleg	1	Undy	1
Castleton	1	Rhiwderin ...	1
St. Mellons ...	1	Rogerstone ...	1

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water.—The general position regarding water supplies throughout the area remains substantially the same as indicated in previous Reports.

During the year work was continued on new water mains in the Parishes of Magor and Redwick.

Delay in completing this work has arisen owing to inability of the Contractor to obtain necessary labour.

The Council have decided to proceed with previously approved Schemes for new water mains to provide piped water supplies to Houses in the Parc-Seymour and Catsash Districts.

Drainage and Sewerage.– During the year 1942 there was no important extensions or alterations to the sewerage and drainage systems in this area.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

(See Sanitary Inspector's Report—Page 9.)

Smoke Abatement.—It has not been found necessary to take any action under this head.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year ...	Nil
(i) By the Local Authority	Nil
(ii) By other Local Authorities	Nil
(iii) By other Bodies or persons	Nil

1.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	127

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 291

(2) Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 88

2.—Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of Formal Notice :—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 61

3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs ... 8

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices :—

(a) By Owners 8

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ... Nil

(b) **Proceedings under Public Health Acts :**

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 19

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices:—

(a) By Owners 19

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ... Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply.—A large proportion of the milk produced in the District is sold in Cardiff and Newport.

There are 269 registered wholesale producers of Milk in the Council area, and 110 milk retailers.

Routine visits of inspection of Dairy Farms, Cowsheds and Dairies continue to be carried out by your Sanitary Inspector as far as is possible in the present abnormal conditions.

Since the commencement of the War it has not been possible to devote so much time as in pre-war years to this important work, because of other additional duties requiring attention connected with Civil Defence and A.R.P. work.

Notifiable Diseases.

Analysis of Total Cases and Deaths from Infectious Diseases, according to Age Groups for 1942.

DISEASE	Cases Notified. Age Groups.													Deaths. Age Groups.												
	Under 1 year	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 & over	Totals all ages	Under 1yr.	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 & over	Totals all ages
Diphtheria	...	.	1	2		1							4	.			...	..		.	...	.		.	...	Nil.
Scarlet Fever	...		...	2	1	17	1	...	1	...		..	22	...									..		...	Nil.
Enteric Fever		...		..					...		.		Nil.	...	.	.										Nil.
Pneumonia	.. .	...		...	1		1	...	1	1		..	4	...			...	1	...	.		1	...	1	2	5
Puerperal Fever	....			.								..	Nil.			.			...	...			...	...	...	Nil.
Cerebro Spinal Fever	....	1	.		.	.		...	...				1					..		..	...	...	..	.	...	Nil.
Puerperal Pyrexia	. ..	.				.	..	...	...		...	..	Nil.	..	..	...			.					..	.	Nil.
Acute Polyiomyeltis	.. .	...	.	.	...	.	...	.		.		...	Nil.	...		..									.	Nil.
Opthalmia Neonatorum	.									...	...	..	Nil.	...		...	.			.			.	..	..	Nil.
Measles	1	1	4	3	12	21	2	...		.	...	..	44	...		.		...			..	.				Nil.
Whooping Cough	1		2	2		3	..			.	...	..	8		.		.					.	.			Nil.
Dysentery	... ...			...	...	..	..				...	1	1													Nil.
Totals	2	2	7	9	14	42	4		2	1		1	84					1				1		1	2	5

Tuberculosis is not included in this summary.

Cancer was not unduly prevalent. Facilities provided at the Radium Centre at Cardiff are used by sufferers from this disease.

Blindness cases are treated by the County in the case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, and in the Borough for others.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1942.

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1 years	...		...	...	...	.	...	...
1-5 ,,	...	1	1	..	...	1	...	1
5-15 ,,	.	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
15-25 ,,	...	2	1	1	2	...	...	...
25-35 ,,	...	1	1	1	.	..	...	...
35-45 ,,	3		..	..	...	1	...	...
45-65 ,,	..	2	...	...	...	1	...	...
65 and up	...	..		...	..		...	...
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Total	3	6	4	2	2	3		1

The rate of Non-notified T.B. Deaths to total T.B. Deaths is Nil.

The incidence of new cases of Tuberculosis compares favourably with other areas.

Notifications of cases by Private Medical Practitioners are prompt and satisfactory.

There is nothing requiring special note of an industrial character, or in conditions of employment, predisposing to Tuberculosis.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

All cases of Notifiable Infectious Diseases are visited and investigated by the Sanitary Inspector after the receipt of a Notification. Where necessary, arrangements are made for the removal of the Patient to an Isolation Hospital, if accommodation is available.

The examination of pathological and bacteriological specimens are carried out at the County Council Laboratory.

Diphtheria Anti-Toxin is supplied free by the Council.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—During the year 1942 a further 208 children were immunised.

No. of children under 5 years was	... ...	103
" " between 5 and 15 years was		105

During 1936 220 children were treated.
" 1937 373 " " "
" 1941 632 " " "

There were only 4 cases of Diphtheria and 22 cases of Scarlet Fever notified during the year. Most of these cases were of a mild type.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculoses) Regulations, 1925.

Under these regulations a person suffering from Tuberculosis is prohibited from engaging in an occupation which involves the handling of milk by him under such conditions as to create a danger of infection of the milk.

It has not been found necessary to take any action under these regulations.

Public Health Act, 1936 (Section 172).

No action was taken under Section 172 for compulsory removal to Hospital of any infectious persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Under this enactment a Local Authority are empowered to apply to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction for an Order for the removal of any person suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis who is in an infectious state, for his detention and maintenance therein for such period not exceeding three months as the Court thinks fit.

I have the honour to remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

NOEL N. WADE.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

To the Chairman and Members of the Magor and St. Mellons Rural District Council.

I beg to submit, herewith, an abbreviated Report of the Sanitary and other work carried out during the year ending 31st December, 1942.

163 Notices or informal Intimations relating to various nuisances and their abatement, were sent during the year.

Under present war conditions comparatively little action was possible under the Housing Acts, but despite the restrictions on building materials and the shortage of available labour, a good deal of essential repair work was carried out, mainly as the result of personal or informal representations made to the owners or agents concerned.

During the year two structurally defective houses previously reported upon as being "unfit" for human habitation, and subsequently vacated, were repaired and put in a tenable condition, and re-let for occupation—subject to a Licence granted by the Council.

Representations were made, and appropriate action taken, with reference to the occupation as temporary dwellings under very unsatisfactory conditions of two improvised structures which were totally unsuited for occupation purposes and unfit for use for human habitation.

Some verminous premises respecting which complaints were received were effectively dealt with.

House Refuse Collection.

Collection of house refuse is carried out by Contract in the Parishes of Rogerstone, Graig, Duffryn, Marshfield, St. Mellons, Henllys, Llanwern, and Langstone.

Difficulties have been experienced in some parts of the district in getting the work carried out on the appointed days because of labour shortage and transport restrictions, etc., especially in the Rogerstone Area.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act.

The Refuse Tips have been periodically "baited" during the year, and complaints and enquiries received from householders respecting nuisance from rats on their premises dealt with.

A "Contract" has been entered into between the Magor and St. Mellons Rural District Council and the Mon. War Agricultural Executive Committee, under which their Pests Department have undertaken to carry out the work of rat destruction and disinfestation at the Council's Refuse Tips and Salvage Dumps, for which work the Council have agreed to make a specified annual payment.

Summary of Inspections, Repairs, etc.

The following is a summary of the work carried out, and inspections made during the year.

Houses repaired	88
Houses represented as "unfit"	2
Additional light and ventilation in rooms ...	5
Pantries or Larders provided	1
Floors of living rooms relaid, or repaired ...	13
Forecourts and backyards to houses newly paved or repaired	7
Rainwater troughing and down pipes repaired or renewed (premises)	47
Roofs repaired	59
Damp walls repaired and remedied	7
Inspections following complaints	45
Various nuisances abated	31
Drains repaired	23
Wells repaired	5
Premises provided with more adequate supply of water	8

Infectious Diseases.

All cases of notified Infectious Diseases were visited and investigated, and the house disinfected at the certified termination of each infectious illness.

Visits made	83
Houses disinfected	27
Cases removed to Hospital	13

Water Supplies.

Number of samples taken, 8.

These samples were taken from Council's Reservoir, Castleton; private reservoirs; rain water storage tanks, and "Well" and "Spring" water supplies in the Rural District.

Appropriate action was taken when necessary on Reports received upon the samples submitted for analysis.

Water Closets.

Repaired	18
New flush tanks provided to existing houses ...	5
Flush tanks repaired	21
Defective closet pans replaced by new ones ...	7

Cesspools.

New cesspools constructed	2
Cleansed and repaired	7

Slaughterhouses.

In consequence of centralised slaughtering having been introduced throughout the country by the Ministry of Food under their scheme of Livestock and Meat Control, no slaughtering of animals has been carried out during the year in the slaughterhouses in this Rural District.

Twelve applications were received for licences under the Slaughter of Animals Act, and annual licences were granted in eash case by the Council.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Approximately 1¾ cwts. of meat and 3½ cwts. of various articles of Food, including 442 tins of evaporated or condensed milk, were found on inspection and examination to be unfit for human consumption, and were suitably disposed of for purposes other than for human food.

In view of the necessity for salvaging all " food waste," arrangements were made with the Authorities concerned for as much as possible of this " condemned " food to be used for " by-products."

Milk Supply.

Inspections of the Cowsheds, Dairies, etc., in the Council's area have been carried out during the year, and representations made to the persons responsible regarding any insanitary conditions, etc., requiring to be remedied.

Because of extra " War Duties," depletion of office staff, petrol restrictions, etc., normal routine inspections, as in pre-war years, have had to be curtailed. But every effort will be made to carry out as regularly as possible in this widely scattered area periodic inspections of Dairy Farm premises, in conjunction with other essential duties requiring to be attended to in the present obnormal conditions.

Number of Producers and/or Wholesale Traders on the Register	269

Number of Retail Purveyors on the Register, 31/12/42 ... ... *110

(*Of this number 81 are also registered as "Producers")

Milk Samples—Bacteriological Examination.

During the year, 36 routine samples of bulk milk supplies were collected by me in various parts of the Rural District for bacteriological examination at the County Laboratory, representing the milk supply from approximately 400 cows.

These routine samples are taken primarily for the purpose of detecting any Tubercle Bacilli present in the milk, or any manurial or other contamination. It is satisfactory to report that none of these samples were found to contain Tubercle Bacilli.

The following is a summary of the bacteriological standard of these 36 bulk samples examined at the County Laboratory :—

21 samples conformed to a satisfactory standard of bacteriological purity.

8 samples were found to be fairly satisfactory.

The remaining 7 samples were found to be unsatisfactory, and the producers and/or retailers concerned were communicated with and necessary action taken with a view to obtaining an improved standard in these milk supplies.

The minimum standard of purity aimed at is that stipulated for "accredited" milk.

I beg to remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. O. LEWIS,

Sanitary Inspector, &c.